THE

Poor Man's Help to Devotion:

OR HIS

Family PRAYER-BOOK

For these Divided Times of Trouble.

CONTAINING

1. A Preparation for Prayer.
2. Two Prayers for Sunday morning.
3. A Prayer before hearing the word.
4. A Prayer for Sunday night.
5. Prayers for the days of the week.
6. Two Family Prayers, Morning and Evening.
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15. A prayer against the Devil, the VVorld, and the Flesh.
16. A prayer for the Sick.
17. A prayer for one at the point of Death.

By Mr. *BAXTER.*

Jam. 5. 13. *Is any among you afflicted? let him Pray. The Prayer of Faith shall save the Sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.*

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A PREPARATION FOR Prayer.

Luke 11. Ver. 1. Lord teach us to Pray.

GOD made Man to live for ever with himself in Bliss, and the means to be happy, is to serve God according to the Rule of his Word. The true Christian is he only that prays in Faith and assurance, according to Christs Rules, and the practice of the Saints of old, who were not Contentious, but purely Religious.

This true Faith pleaseth God; Christ is the Author and finisher of this Faith, by the Holy Ghost. This Faith only Justifies; by this Faith Abraham obeyed, Gideon was strengthned, and Jonathan discomfited the Philistines: By thir Faith David overcame Goliah, Daniel stopt the

mouths of Lyons, the three Children quenched the fiery Flames; this Faith works by Love, purifies the heart, prevails against the Gates of Hell, gives Peace with God, it gives boldness and free access to God. It overcomes the World; by Faith the Thief was saved, the Blind saw, the Lame recovered strength: Samuel was a faithful Prophet, and Moses was a Faithful Servant.

Resolve so to be, so shall you be of that chosen Generation, an Holy Nation, a Royal Priesthood, a Peculiar People, Christs free men & Co-heirs with Christ.

This is Christs way, the way of beauty, Peace, Holiness, the straight, even, plain, and smooth way. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses; Aaron, Samuel, Phineas, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Nathan, David, Salomon, Elias, Elizeus, all these went this way, and many others, of whom the World was not worthy; and being thus compassed about with a Cloud of witnesses, Let us run the Race set before us; Looking unto Jesus the Author and finisher of our Faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of God, making Intercession for us, to whom be Glory for ever, and ever; *Amen.*

A Prayer for Sunday Morning.

GLorious Lord of Sabbath, thou who hast given me to see the light of this blessed day, make me careful to do the duties of it; Holiness becomes thy house, the day is Holy, the duties are holy: Oh let not an Unholy heart be found in me, thou great heart-maker, and All-seeing Heart-searcher, deliver me this day and all my days, from an heart of Unbelief, to depart from thee the living God. Let this day be a day of Rejoycing and delight, an earnest of that Eternal rest for all those that are delivered from Wrath to come, by our Lord Jesus the great Shepherd of his Sheep, to whom be Glory for ever, & for ever; Amen.

Another.

OGlorious father of Spirits, sanctifie me this thy day of rest, that Iniquity may neither prevail over me, nor prevent me in the duties of it; let a Reverential awe of the fear possess me, let me have cause to say, It is good for me to draw near to God in his Solemn Assemblies: Let an heart opened, a hearing ear and a seeing eye, be the blessed portion of thy most unworthy Servant; satisfie my Soul with

the fatness of thine house, that I may say, It is not in vain that the Seed of Jacob do seek thy face. Preserve me this day, and all my days by thy Grace, till thou shalt please to translate me to that Glory prepared for those that love and long the appearance of Jesus Christ in Glory, even so Amen.

A Prayer before the hearing of the Word.

O Eternal, ever-blessed, and Glorious Lord, vouchsafe to thy poor Creature an enlightned Understanding, an obedient Will, and a free entry of thy Will to be delivered this day, that my Soul may say, Speak Lord, for thy Servant hears, and is come to submit to what thou commandest, that I may grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath loved us, and washed us in his Blood: Let a door of utterance be given to thy Servant the Minister, and a door of entrance open to the heart of the Hearer, that they may hear and Live, and be built up in that Faith which worketh by Love, to the praise of him who hath called me out of Darkness into that marvelous Light, revealed to all those that are sanctified throughout by Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God and

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our Father, to whom be Glory for evermore; Amen.

A Prayer for Sunday Night.

EVer-living Lord, from the heart enable that Praise, and Honour, and Might due to thy blessed Majesty, from a Worm and no man, for the unspeakable mercies of this thy day; that Manna doth yet fall from Heaven, that the good Land doth yet flow with Milk and Honey, that our unworthiness hath not deprived us of this great mercy, that Sabbath mercies are yet continued, and that our Land is not made desolate for the abuse of Sabbath mercies; water that Word delivered with the Dew of Heaven, that it may bring forth fruit unto righteousness: Let neither Tares nor Cares of this life, cause the Seed sown to dye and perish upon Fallow Ground: deliver thy Servant from the sinking under affliction in a day of Tryal, that in the strength of Christ he may be more than Conquerour, to thy Praise and Glory: Amen.

A Prayer for Munday.

BLessed Lord, it is not in the power of Man either to chuse his way, or to find the right Path; direct my ways to keep thy Statutes, enable me to take up

the Cross and to follow him who is the Truth and the Life, to prepare for affliction, to suffer joyfully for Christ's cause, and to keep a Conscience void of offence towards thee and towards men: Let no trouble cause me to cast off that Holy confidence which shall receive a recompence when the time of Refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, and the Glory of his might. Let my duty in my Calling be blessed, let what I put my hand to prosper; enable faithfully as in the presence of thy All-seeing eye, to Labour according to thy appointment, in dealing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly and contentedly in the place I am set: In Jesus Christ let my person and performances find Grace, till thou shalt receive me to Glory: So be it, Amen, Amen.

A Prayer for Tuesday.

O Lord, support against that strong Enemy of man, the World, and the vanities thereof; keep my eyes from beholding, my ears from hearing, and my feet from walking in its course: Blessed Redeemer, thou art greater than the World, O increase that Faith in me that overcomes it. Inable me to soar above to

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see Treasures that fade not, durable Riches; strengthen my sense of its vanity, that by its deceivableness I loose not my Soul. Let not its vanities allure me, but preserve me, that its miseries do not deject me; let my Love and fear be fixt in thee, set me within that Rock of safety, who hath Triumphed over the Flesh, the Devil, and the World, for me, even Jesus who hath delivered me from Wrath to come, to whom be Glory for ever; Amen.

A Prayer for Wednesday.

O Thou great and terrible Judge of the World, I am a Child of death by the Sentence of thy just Law for Adams sin, and though I have deserved it at the hands of thy Justice, yet in thy mercy thou hast not executed that Sentence hitherto, when the Snares of Death and Hell have taken hold on me, thou didst spare and preserve my Soul. O make me ever thankful for thy goodness, long-suffering, and patience; let this love lead and constrain me with holy obedience, redeeming the time, in giving all diligence to make my Calling and Election sure, by a present Repentance prepare me, and from a sudden death, by thy special providence

vidence deliver me, blessed Saviour, that dost shed thy blood to save me, and now sittest in Heaven to preserve me, for my last hour fit me by Grace to partake of that Glory: Amen.

A Prayer for Thursday.

BLessed, Holy, Righteous Lord, keep me from Profaness and Hypocrisie; let not presumptious Sins prevail over me; O thou Heart-searcher, acquit me from the witness of an accusing Conscience, who art more than ten Thousand Consciences to condemn: O let me see thee every where before my eyes, and my self upon the Bar to thine, and accordingly to walk uprightly before thee, till I come to rest Eternally with thee; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

A Prayer for Friday.

BLessed Immutable Lord, there is not a moment in which I subsist without thy goodness, and yet how many days are there spent wherein thou hast received no Service? Oh the ill requital thus with Inconstancy, to return mercy to eternity. Give courage and constancy to press after that high Calling: O the years misspent in Vanity, and the few minutes that have

have been spent in Piety! fix my heart on thy fear, that no Temptation of man or Devil may remove me: O thou that art without shadow or change, close the same, settle my fickle Soul in thy fear, that I may serve thee on earth with constancy, and in Heaven to all Eternity: Amen.

A Prayer for Saturday.

O Lord preserve me from that dreadful sin and judgement of Impenitency; give me sorrow for my Sins, on earth or Hell I must repent; O let timely Tears on earth prevent Everlasting Horror: From a hardned heart in Sin, and a conscience seared with Guilt; Lord preserve me, for Sin let my heart smite me, that thy hand of vengeance may not destroy me; move me with thy Spirit, wound me with thy word; let me rather grieve on earth, than wail and howl in Hell: let a heart of Flesh and not of Stone, be the Portion of thy poor Servant, for his sake who is sat down at the Right Hand of thy Majesty on High: Amen.

A Morning Prayer for a Family.

Most Gracious Lord God, the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we present our selves and services

services before thy throne of Majesty & glory, in all Humility of Soul, to return our acknowledgements of all thy wonderful dealings in ways of Love and tender kindnesses to us-ward. Thou hast preserved and guarded us by thy providence from the womb, we have lived upon thy cost ever since, thou hast not failed us, but hast renewed thy mercies every morning; our ill have not hitherto provoked thee to make our Beds our Graves, and to take our Souls from us, and suddenly have brought us to account for all things done in the Body; but thou hast still more tenderly dealt with us; O affect our hearts with the apprehension of that admired cost thou hast been pleased to be at with us. The concerns of a better life and future hopes, those we chiefly desire to admire: That a Redeemer should purchase such vile Wretches, and set his love upon such polluted ones, to call such out of the Kingdom of darkness, and to place us in a station of light and Love; suffer us not to be Idle and unfruitful in our Stations and Relations, let our great endeavours be to improve all Talents, giving all diligence to make sure work for Eternity:

Preserve

Preserve us from fainting in our way for any Tribulation; raise our minds from things below, and grant that we may press forward, having here no continuing City; let diligence and faithfulness in our callings and endeavours, be that which each of us in our places aim at, with all Circumspection redeeming the Time; Stablish thy Kingdom of grace, and preserve the Rulers for thee to that Kingdom of Glory prepared for all those that look and long for his Glorious appearance, who is the desire of Nations; Amen.

An Evening Prayer for a Family.

HOly and for ever blessed Lord, thou Hart the fountain of all our Refreshments; when we consider our dealings towards thee, and our Averseness in regard of that corrupt Nature we are clogged with, how prone and ready to all manner of evil, Rebellious oppositions ready to break out, and endangering the leading of us Captive to sin, our minds so defiled, and the outward and inward man so odiously deformed, the sins of this day are more than sufficient to pull down an Eternal weight of Wrath. Our negligence in our Callings of thee, who hast been

been so little in our thoughts; we have neglected all those precious opportunities of our own and others Good, we have neither edified our selves or those we had to deal with; we are not yet fully persuaded that thy Wrath is so terrible, or our sins so grievous, or our state so dangerous as sin has made it: We awe the dread of so great a Majesty, neither do we tremble at the power of thy Wrath, we disclaim all hope in our selves; accept of him who hath compleatly discharged believing sinners; we have no other name to mention than Jesus Christ; this Name and none other, is as a precious Dyntment poured forth; him O Father, thou hast sealed and sent into the world to save to the uttermost, all that come unto thee by him: Thou art the same Yesterday and for ever, settle our Souls in an assured perswasion of thy Love, then shall we lay down our heads in peace; After those many preservations received, continue and enlarge the freedom of the Gospel, stablish the truth of Religion amongst us by a perpetual decree: Preserve the King, lengthen his days, prosper his Reign, and defeat his Enemies, for Christs sake, to whom be Glory for ever: Amen.

The

The Poor Mans Prayer.

O Lord, I am poor in Estate, by thy Grace make me poor in Spirit, but O let me not carelesly neglect Heavenly Treasure, that have no portion of earthly; blessed Jesus, let me bear my Lot with patience; thou wast poor on earth, O teach me to improve my Poverty, that being cloathed with thy Robe of Righteousness, I may enjoy Eternal Mansions, after the enjoyment of nothing in this world but misery, blessed Poverty that leads me to Felicity, by Grace through Christ, blessed for ever: Amen.

The Poor Trades-mans Prayer.

O Let me not sell my Soul with my Commodity, deliver me from swearing, Lying, Cheating, and for a little profit, to make a miserable Exchange, to take a little Money for that which cost so much precious Blood, for the gain of a poor Penny, to sell so Rich a perpetuity, and make my self miserable to Eternity. Lord guide me by diligence and honestey, though poor on earth; if my bags be empty below on Earth, let them be fill'd above with dureable Treasure: This mercy grant me for his alone sake, who became poor to make us Rich, Jesus Christ our Lord: Amen.

The

The prisoners prayer.

LORD free me from the Fetters of guilt, and let thy Grace deliver me from the power of Sin: From Chains of everlasting darkness in the Goal of Hell, good Lord deliver me; and from preferring the slavery of sin and Chain of Satan, before the freedom of thy Blood and Spirit, keep me most gracious Redeemer: Amen.

The Prisoner for Debt, his Prayer.

OThou great Creditor, to whom all Sinners are Debtors, Discharge me of the Debt of my Sins, that I may with more Comfort endure what I suffer for other Debts; O let me heartily repent my Sins, that I may have thy acquitance for the Debt, and really amend, that thou mayst Seal, and the world witness, my Acquitance and Repentance, for Jesus Christ his sake: Amen.

The poor Dying Malefactors Prayer.

O Blessed Redeemer, by the Blood of thy Cross, be the Saviour of my Soul, my Poor, Guilty, Sinful Soul: O thou who didst save the penitent Thief on the Cross, behold me a miserable Malefactor on my Gibbet! a Wretched but Penitent one! now, now, dear Saviour, at my last hour have mercy on me, do not leave me; my trembling departing Soul, support and save from Eternal death, save me by thy Merits, and take me to thy mercy, Lord Jesus receive my Soul: Amen.

A Parents Prayer for Children.

O Lord, thou who in Favour hast given me Issue, let thy Seat of Blessing upon them, and grant me Grace by a Christian Example and Education; let my care be Fatherly for their Lives, and Christian for their Souls: Holy Lord, thou art Father of Spirits, I but of their Flesh, let me therefore trust in their better part, taking care to do my Duty, and casting all farther care upon thee; Even so be it for Christ thy dear Sons sake, and our Lord: Amen.

The Childs Prayer for the Parents.

O Lord, who hast placed my Parents as in thy stead, (under thee) the makers and Preservers of my Life; give me Grace to look at thy Power and Goodness in them; and (as thee) love, serve, and obey them; that I may be a joy to their Life, and length to their Days: O Lord, give me a dutiful and helpful frame of Spirit towards them, that so I, as a Child of theirs, so the Heir of their and thy Blessing, which grant for the sake of our alone Saviour and Redeemer: Amen.

A Prayer for a Woman in Travel.

Ah! this is the fruit of Disobedience, our first Mother brought forth sin, and we ever since bring forth sorrow; O Lord, how oft have I done Evil in thine eyes, to do what was pleasing in my own! Wrath is my due, and misery my Portion; but O thou just Judge of the World, who art the preserver of Men, preserve me, O make haste to deliver in this hour of Tryal, to thy Glory and my Comfort, for Jesus Christ his sake: Amen.

The

The Widdows Prayer.

O Blessed Lord, be thou Husband to the Widdow, thou that purchasedst my Soul by thy Blood to be thy Spouse, do not leave me, but guide me by thy Council in all my ways, and supply me in all my wants; let me live thine Espoused by grace, and at last be taken into that glory prepared for those that Love and long for that Blessed Enjoyment, to which Blessed day bring me, and for it fit me, and ever preserve me, dear Lord: Amen.

A Prayer against the Devil, the World, and the Flesh.

O Christ, the Son of the living God, in the time of thy Humility, when thou walkedst here in the Vale of this miserable World, in the form of a Servant, in the substance of mankind; thou hadst proof of the sundry grievous Assaults and temptations, wherewith Satan the monstrous enemy to Mankind, tryed thee; thou being altogether cleer from all Corruption, yea, without all desire of Sin; and yet hardly assaulted by sundry means to procure thee to yield to his allurings, whereby (sweet Jesus) thou hadst sufficient tryal and experience

of his like assaults against our corruptible and weak flesh, who by reason of the fall and wilful Transgression of Adam, are most easie to be overcome in all assaults, having none other refuge or defence, but only to fly unto thee, and to rest under the shaddow of thy Wings: which is so sure a Harbour, and strong a Defence, as who so faithfully taketh him unto the same, is safe from all the raging Temptations of Satan, the deceits of the World; and the unbridled motions of the Flesh: all which are unto our Souls most monstrous, mortal, and most cruel Enemies. O Lord, let thy Holy Spirit dwell in me; let it never depart from the inner part of my heart: but decking the house of my soul with the flowers of Love, Faith, and unfeigned zeal; may it please thy divine Majesty to settle there, and frame thy self therein to abide, that thy presence may be so terrible unto Satan, as approaching near unto me, perceiving thine holy Spirit to have possession of me, and hearing thy name, (O Lord) he may flye away from me, as he did from thee on the Pinacle, and in all his Temptations. O sweet Jesus, thou wast pure at that time without spot of sin: I am sinful, and

and full of corruption. He could not overcome or prevail against thy sanctity: but I, full of impiety, and prone to fall, and therefore easie to be overcome. Strengthen me therefore, O good father, stand with me, and fight for me, that he take me not captive, and make me a bond-slave to sin: Keep me out of his claws, sweet Jesus: let the brightness of thy grace so shine in and about me, that this darkness come not near me to overshaddow me; let thy favour, O Christ, be a Wall, a Bulwark; and strong Buckler for my defence. Lord, thou knowest that his force is so great, his will so ready, and his doings so wisely, as if thou do but pluck back thy hand, he striketh and buffeteth me: if thou turn thy face, he winneth me to his will: and if thou depart utterly from me, he draweth me headlong into most horrible destruction: Therefore (O good Father) save me, embrace me, and hold thy holy hand over me, conduct me, and lead me in the midst of the paths of truth, to Celestial happiness: and let me not be drawn away to the left hand, or to the right, but keep a middle and direct course, until I come to the place of Celestial Bliss, where neither

ther Satan shall overcome me, the world deceive me, nor the flesh procure me to sin: but I shall be in the light of thy gracious presence with the residue of the Saints, singing Eternal Praises unto thee. But my time is not yet come, my journey is not yet at an end, my days, though they are but a span long, are not yet finished: and until this body of mine shall pass to the Grave, my poor Soul must have and abide continual conflicts with the Devil, the King of this world and with so many his Ministers as my tongue cannot number; and especially with the world, who setteth before me, instead of divine and heavenly contemplations, worldly vanities: instead of Celestial and true comfort, worldly delights: instead of heavenly hope, worldly unvaliable promises, to bring (as much as in it lyeth) my Godly enterprizes to a wicked end: yea, Lord, he labours by all means to draw me into dispair, by loading my mind with too much doubt of the Performance of thy most comfortable Promises. But most loving God, though his Power be in shew great, thine is greater: though he be strong, thou art stronger; and art able to cast him into

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utter Darkneſs, and to bring us into Heavenly Life, which continueth for ever, and ever: Amen.

A Prayer for the Sick.

O Lord, to the glory of thy Juſtice, I humbly confeſs this Sickneſs is the juſt Fruit of my Sin; I am by Birth a Child of Death, and an Heir of the Grave; but look not upon this firſt but the ſecond Adams Seed, a Graft of that Holy Stock, the Root of Jeſſe, the Branch of Righteouſneſs, the Holy one of God; for his Merits forgive, heal, and help, pitty poor afflicted Fleſh and Blood, groaning and languiſhing for the merits of Jeſus Chriſt my Lord: Amen.

A Prayer for one at the point of Death.

The great and Mighty God of Jacob, his Everlaſting Arms Embrace thee, Jeſus Chriſt the Redeemer, his Merits be upon thee, and imputed to thee; the Holy Ghoſt that ever-bleſſed Spirit ſupport thee; let thy Death be precious in the ſight of the Lord, to all Eternity: Amen.

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